Service Club
Camp Bowie, Texas
APO 31, Co. H, 167th Inf. (R)

CA
1942
TEXAS

Mr. Sam Beck,
Army Store
Tuscaloosa,
Ala.

Service Club
Camp Bowie, Texas

March 6/42

Dear Daddy:

I got the suitcase and thanks a lot. It is warm today. As far as I know this is going to be a training division. I hope so anyway.

I'm enclosing an article I tore out of the paper. Read it! Like it? Do mother know? I guess she will start working hard again.

Did you call the Tuscaloosa News? I haven't received a paper as yet.

Heard from Lottie yesterday. aunt Rose said Bobby is working in Los angeles and Leonard graduated, and will stay in Jacksonville as an instructor. Nice thing! He will take a test for promotion next month. Hope he gets it! any news from Bert?

Write soon!

Love,

Harold

100,000 Jews in Service, Veterans' Leader Says

Ben Kaufman Warns Against Racial Division at JWV Meeting in City

By PETE CRAIG

There are more than 100,000 Jews in our armed forces at present, and they are ready to fight this country's battles—not as Jews—but as Americans.

This word and a warning against attempts to create racial and religious division among us were the keynotes sounded Saturday by Benjamin Kaufman, national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, here to attend the mid-winter conference of that organization.

A quiet-mannered, medium-sized man, Commander Kaufman also exploded the myth that Jews sought noncombatant services in the first World War. Holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor—one of 72 men given this highest award during the last conflict—he pointed to the record of Jewish participation in the last war.

250,000 in First War

There were 250,000 Jews among our fighters in the first World War, or 4.5 per cent of the total mobilization. These men came from a Jewish population of only 3 per cent of the national total. Of the Jews in service, 48 per cent were in the infantry, as against only 5.09 per cent in the Quartermaster Corps, Commander Kaufman tells you.

Jews always have and always will play important roles in the defense of this country, he declared. Back in the Spanish-American War, 5,000 Jews volunteered for service. And in the Civil War, some 10,000 Jews fought on both sides.

A Jew, Colonel Isaac Franks, served as aide-de-camp to George Washington, and at least 46 Jews are known to have fought in the Revolutionary War.

"But they were fighting as Americans—not as Jews," Mr. Kauffman said.

It was as an American that First Sergeant Ben Kauffman led his outfit, Company K of the 308 Infantry, when it was the first to reach the famous "Lost Battalion" in the Argonne Forest.

And it was as an American that he was fighting that day in October, 1918, in the Argonne, when he won the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The official citation best tells this story:

"In the Argonne on October 4th, Kaufman had one arm already put out of commission by a German machine gun. Nevertheless, with Private Iacoviello and Vanderlip, he started toward the flank of the machine-gun position. Both privates were wounded, and Kaufman was alone when he drew his pistol—which was empty—and rushed at the position—calling upon the gunners to surrender; made them shoulder the machine gun, and march back to headquarters.

"Meeting Private Iacoviello—he turned over the prisoners to him and then became unconscious from loss of blood.

Imagine charging a machine gun with an empty pistol and a disabled arm! You'd never imagine it from the mild mannered, unobtrusive fellow who is now national commander of the J. W. V.

Commander Kaufman is itching to get back into action—this time in the Navy. His application for commission is now before the proper officials in Washington. He is a native of Trenton, N. J.

But to those of his faith who may not wear the uniform, he points out the myriad duties of civilian defense, morale work and financial aid which they can perform.

And of the present crises, he believes, we face a situation which prompted him to paraphrase: "The world is now engaged in a great civil war, testing whether any nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that men are created equal, can now survive."

Of Pearl Harbor, Commander Kauffman believes it a victory in the sense that the Japanese probably thought that by such a lightning stroke they could demoralize us into a quick peace. Instead, he says, Pearl Harbor has united the nation and made us more determined than ever to fight for our ideals.

Says Victory Inevitable

The Axis must realize now that our victory is inevitable, he says with calm confidence.

Commander Kauffman was one of some 500 officials of the Jewish War Veterans here from many sections of the nation for the mid-winter conference.

An important piece of business expected to be voted upon Sunday afternoon will be a resolution admitting Jews in armed service at present to become members of the Veterans' organization upon their discharge.

The conference opened Friday evening with special religious services. Saturday morning's session was marked by a breakfast at which Governor Talmadge was speaker.

Saturday afternoon's session featured a "defense symposium" attended by Mayor LeCraw and civilian and military defense leaders. A banquet was staged Saturday evening.

Originally scheduled to continue through Monday, the conference may terminate Sunday afternoon with a meeting of the resolutions committee. Sessions are being held at the Henry Grady Hotel.

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BE HAPPY ...be a Good Dancer

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ARTHUR MURRAY

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